

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appln. No. : 10/065,280  
Applicants : Leung et al.  
Filed : September 30, 2002  
Group Art Unit : 3731  
Examiner : Gary Jackson  
Docket No. : 013341.000019  
Confirmation No. : 5694  
Title : BARBED SUTURES

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed February 24, 2005, regarding the above-referenced patent application. A Petition for Extension of Time and a check in payment of the petition fee and excess claims fee added by this amendment are enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit any extra amount owed or to credit any extra amount paid to Deposit Account No. 13-4365.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

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wherein the longitudinal axis of the barb is not parallel to the longitudinal axis of the body of the suture. Since Sulamanidze and Alcamo show only patterned barb dispositions and barbs generally aligned with the longitudinal of the suture, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3 now distinguish over the references. Applicants note that the Examiner indicated during the interview that the claimed twist cut multiple spiral barb disposition recited in claims 1-3 distinguishes over the prior art.

Therefore, because neither Sulamanidze nor Alcamo, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the elements of claims 1-3, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the present rejection and allowance of claims 1-3. Claims 12-15 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1. Similarly, new claims 28-30 depend from claims 1-3, respectively, and should be allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1-3.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has found Claims 4-11 and 16-27 to be allowable over the art of record. Hence, applicants respectfully submit that the case is in condition for allowance and allowance is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner should have any questions of a minor nature after reading the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to attend to any such minor issues and obviate the issuance of another Office Action.

Date: 8-24-05

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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